

Real, a local power trio led by singer/guitarist Mark Segal, have something different going in the contrast between Segal's high straightforward vocal delivery and his all-out guitar assault, over a tight bass and drum barrage by Mark Talbott and Austin Faxon who pull sudden stops where you least expect them. This is best exemplified on the dreamlike "Into It Again," "Might" and "Nod" are fierce defined rockers featuring exceptional soaring guitar work.

A more down-to-earth melodic approach to the rock trio format is taken by **Bag of Hammers**, who just released their second tape. "Window Sick," has a country-tinged melody, with grungy rhythmic punctuations ending each line. Bruce Langfeld's vocal is initially reminiscent of Warren Zevon, but it his guitar solo combining Nashville-styled bends with nasty distortion that really does the singing. "Stone Mountain," is a fairly strange song with an interesting acoustic guitar figure that may not quite achieve what the lyrics are reaching for, and "Same Old Same Old" is a raunchy romp that takes full advantage of Craig Heim's drumming skills, ably supported by Todd Sandler's bass. While this tape allows you to appreciate their songs, it only hints at the power Bag of Hammers can generate in person.

Real with Crackerbash (opening for) Firehose: Sun., Apr. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Trocadero, 10th and Arch Sts., \$8, 923-7625.

Bag of Hammers with Asparagus Concrete and Pretty Little Mess: Sat., Apr. 17 at 10 p.m. at the Barbary, Delaware and Frankford Aves., 739-3330.

--Peter Brown